

Stuffed Animal Cladogram with Blank Boxes and Suggested Answers

Description of the cladogram diagram layout

The cladogram diagram begins at the bottom of the page with "Level 1: All animals." Level 2 is above that on the page, then Levels 3, 4, and 5, to the top of the page. The stuffed animals are shown as images, either with name labels or without. The levels are shown as horizontal lines, and the branches are shown as vertical lines. The purpose of this activity is for the learner to determine how the stuffed animals in each image get divided and further divided into new categories, moving up through the levels. Suggested answers are given when questions are asked about filling blank categories. The prompt "pause reader now, resume when ready" will let you know when a suggested answer is coming up.

Level 1 (bottom of page): All animals

This category includes: purple caterpillar, yellow fly, black bear, brown bear, blue rabbit, tan rabbit, brown rabbit, white dog, white spotted dog, white cat, gray cat, white reindeer, brown koala, black puffin, black gorilla, gray lemur, white bear, tan bear, and brown guinea pig.

Level 2: This level divides "all animals" into two branches: "animals with more than 4 legs" and "animals with 4 legs"

The "animals with more than 4 legs" category includes a purple caterpillar and a yellow fly. What category names would you make for these 2 animals? Suggested answers [pause reader now, resume when ready]: wings, no wings

The "animals with four legs" category includes a black bear, brown bear, blue rabbit, tan rabbit, brown rabbit, white dog, white spotted dog, white cat, gray cat, white reindeer, brown koala, black puffin, black gorilla, gray lemur, white bear, tan bear, and brown guinea pig. The animals with 4 legs are divided into new 2 branches: animals with fur, and animals with feathers. All the animals go into the "fur" category except the puffin, which has feathers.

Level 3: This level divides the "animals with fur" category into 2 new branches: "eat plants" and "eat meat."

These animals eat plants: white reindeer, black gorilla, gray lemur, brown koala, tan rabbit, brown rabbit, blue rabbit, and brown guinea pig. These animals eat meat: black bear, white dog, white spotted dog, gray cat, white cat, and white bear.

Level 4A: This level divides the "eat plants" category into 4 new branches.

What would you name these 4 new branches for these animals? Branch 1: brown koala. Branch 2: black gorilla and gray lemur. Branch 3: White reindeer. Branch 4: White rabbit, blue rabbit, tan rabbit, brown guinea pig. Suggested answers [pause reader now, resume when ready]: Branch 1: koala has pouch. Branch 2: gorilla and lemur have thumbs. Branch 3: reindeer has antlers. Branch 4: Rabbits have buck teeth.

Level 4B: This level divides the "eat meat" category into 3 new branches.

What would you name these 3 new branches for these animals? Branch 1: white cat, gray cat. Branch 2: white dog and white spotted dog. Branch 3: black bear and brown bear. Suggested answers [pause reader now, resume when ready]: Branch 1: cats. Branch 2: dogs. Branch 3: Bears.

Level 5 (top of page): This level divides the white rabbit, blue rabbit, tan rabbit, and brown guinea pig category into 2 final new branches.

What category names would you use for these 2 new branches? Branch 1: brown guinea pig. Branch 2: tan rabbit, blue rabbit, and white rabbit. This is the final level of this cladogram. Suggested answers [pause reader now, resume when ready]: Branch 1: brown guinea pig has short ears. Branch 2: rabbits have long ears.